Welcome to Art on the River, Dubuque’s premier rotating public art exhibit along the Mississippi Riverwalk in the Port of Dubuque.

The City of Dubuque is committed to fostering diverse arts and culture experiences throughout the community. Art on the River is one such initiative that is not only a carefully curated display of finely-crafted and thought-provoking artworks, but is also an investment in quality of life and creative economy of our community.

The 2021-2022 Exhibit features sculptures that speak to the resiliency and fortitude needed to rebuild better as communities worldwide continue to rebound from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and grow in the ongoing fight for social justice.

Download the Otocast app for an audio tour of Art on the River and hear from the artists themselves!

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www.cityofdubuque.org/artontheriver
1. Scalar
Luke Achterberg - Onalaska, WI
This work explores relationships between fine art and the subcultures of Americana found in automotive customization, style writing (calligraphy and graffiti), comic books, snow/skateboarding, and street art – all of which display extremely high technical values developed outside of the academic sphere. These forms create ideas that become connected. Through connecting positive ideas, we create a society that flourishes and is beautiful. This sculpture seeks to build up the human ideal through beauty.

2. Downstream
Brian Petrone - Evanston, IL
This site-specific installation depicts the Mississippi River and its major tributaries. This sculpture consists of hundreds of bamboo posts creating a three-dimensional map of the watershed. The Mississippi can be understood not only as a single waterway but as a series of interconnected streams and rivers that span a large part of North America. Like the connectivity of people on this continent, the flow of water through a single tributary can have profound effects downstream.

3. Resilient Generations
Gail Chavenelle - Dubuque, IA
Through design, this piece addresses the necessity of conservation. Flat elements bend to become a 3D sculpture viewable from all sides. Sculptural generations visually and literally conserve to sustain resilience and the future. Past generations are indicated by the large cut out shape, providing the framework of current generations. The adult is directly cut from the ancestor, the child from the adult. The future represented by the undeveloped figure. Each holds and reinforces the other.

4. Seda
Tim Adams - Webster City, IA
All rocks are connected in a cycle of creation, change, and destruction. The cycle begins with molten rock which cools and hardens to form igneous rock. Erosional forces break this into sediment carried by rivers and wind, then deposited elsewhere. Buried and lithified, they form sedimentary rock which heat and pressure change to metamorphic rock before melting back into magma again. The work’s center piece also represents the Rock Cycle, spinning in the wind.

5. Pluma Sculptura, aka “The Feather”
Kirk Seese - Lutherville, MD
An artist’s direct response to the years of representational work, the process of creating swirling color fields became a therapeutic exercise. Something unique that came from inside. The organic motions of the blended hues contained by the stark, black, geometric framework are not visually unnerving, but instead complement each other. Reminiscent of stained glass, one might believe the painted wood panels are transparent.

6. Stalk 10052REH400-2
Matt Moyer - Columbia, MO
This work explores the toxicity of pesticides, chemicals, and industrialization of our natural environment with its harmful impact on crops and generations of people in proximity to those fields. This sculpture also examines the impact COVID-19 has had on our society, in particular those affected in the food and restaurant business; their hardships and ultimate resilience. Persisting in the face of adversity and environmental challenges, it portrays a sense of adaptability and survival, too.

7. The Single Twist
Mary Angers - Long Branch, NJ
An examination of resiliency flowing, this piece serves to mathematically answer the question of what happens to a plane when hit by an object that causes it to curve or turn. The resulting shape tries to be resilient to the object of force. It shows a nice flow to this resilient shape.

8. Coral
Tim Adams - Webster City, IA
This piece symbolizes our symbiotic relationship to nature. Coral reefs support a diversity of life. They protect our coastlines from storms and erosion. Provide food, jobs, and sources of new medicine. At the same time, people threaten coral reefs by pollution, sedimentation, unsustainable fishing, and climate change. Our interdependence on nature is one of the great challenges of our time. How do we live on this planet and still preserve and protect it?

9. We Are All Downstream
Mike Klein - St. Paul, MN
Rivers connect us in powerful ways, yet we often neglect or abuse our waterways. This sculpture alludes to the familiar architecture of human engagement with the Mississippi, yet integrates natural forms that remind us resiliency flows through the natural world. The stones collected in the quadrants of the structure retain their resiliency flows through the natural world. The stones collected in the quadrants of the structure retain their natural form and reflect the diversity of our communities, and the neglected or ignored history of the original peoples of this land.

10. Three Liner
Evan Lewis - Mineral Point, WI
This wind-activated kinetic sculpture takes on the lifelike quality of a creature swimming upstream or flying upwind. At times it seems to struggle then soar – a metaphor for the process of discovery in our lives. Structurally strong, it previously survived three consecutive hurricanes without the slightest damage. Constantly negotiating obstacles in the form of strong wind currents and gusts, it first resists the challenge only to find a way to work with the "new normal."

11. Mother Earth
Christina Murphy - Chicago, IL
This sculptural bench represents the natural artistry and beauty Mother Nature has lain before us. She holds the sun, the moon and stars. The coverlet acts as a sanctuary for vegetables, wildflowers, trees, wheat, fruit, seeds, livestock and fish. A baby eagle’s nest at the base contrasts with the mighty feathers that grace her shoulders, representing her enduring strength, while strong waters of the mighty Mississippi pour from her hair and down her back.

People’s Choice Award
Vote for your favorite by scanning the QR code with your smartphone’s camera.

All of these works are available for purchase! Learn more at cityofdubuque.org/artontheriver2021
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2021-2022 Exhibit

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2021-2022 Sculpture Locations

1. Scalar
2. Downstream
3. Resilient Generations
4. Seda
5. Pluma Sculptura, aka "The Feather"
6. Continuum (Permanent Installation)
7. The Single Twist
8. Coral
9. We Are All Downstream
10. Three Liner
11. Mother Earth

Stalk 10052REH400-2 (COVID Corn to Go)

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